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NOTES AND NOVELTIES

THE sale of the Saltmarsh collection, which constituted the one hundred and tenth auction sale of Professor Ed. Frossard, at Leavitt & Co.'s, on April 13th and 14th, was, as numismatists will be glad to learn, an eminent success. The interest displayed in the sale was another proof of the spreading and growing interest in numismatics in this country. The total of the sale was upwards of \$3,000. Many dealers and private buyers were present in person, and many coin and antiquity collectors were represented by the New York and the Philadelphia dealers. Professor Frossard alone represented over fifty distant buyers, scattered over the country from Maine to California, and through Canada.

* * *

The most dramatic event of the sale occurred in connection with the 1804 dollar, No. 290 of the catalogue. This piece was described in the catalogue as: "1804 over '03. Liberty and stars bold, the bust and field showing some marks of circulation; in the date the 4 is heavy and large, the 3 plainly visible beneath; the rev., fine; the incuse inscription on edge perfect and not at all blurred by the pressure of smooth collar as in the case of all known restrikes; there is a crack in die to right of 4, extending from edge toward centre for a distance of about $\frac{1}{8}$ in." Commenting further on the piece, the editor of the catalogue wrote: "On account of the peculiar mingling of the figures 4 and 3, and also because the obverse die cracked, it is probable that very few specimens of this dollar were struck at the mint; at any rate, but two are known at the present time: this one, which for twenty years before it fell into the hands of Mr. Saltmarsh was owned by Mr. Milton Chase, of Haverhill, Mass., and the one in the cabinet of John Haigh, Esq., of Somerville, Mass. These two dollars have received the endorsement of such an eminent numismatist as S. S. Crosby, who, in the *American Journal of Numismatics* for April, 1891, says: "I have seen a dollar of 1804, which I believe to be genuine, struck from a die altered from 1803, with both figures plainly showing. . . . The dollar just mentioned, 1803-4, and another, which I am not alone in considering a genuine original, should, in my opinion, be included in the list of the dollars of 1804. . . . Upon careful examination, some peculiarities are discovered which render it impossible for me to consider it other than a genuine original dollar of 1804. This opinion is shared by others who are perhaps better qualified than myself to judge of such matters." Still, adverse opinions as to its authenticity

were expressed, so when its turn came in the sale it was withdrawn. It is but proper to state, however, that in view of its unqualified endorsement by high authority, the piece will not be allowed to rest under this stigma, and it is believed that further expert investigation will establish its originality and value.

* * *

Some prices for other coins were: 361, a four-real piece, Carolus & Joannâ, of Mexico, earliest America coinage, \$4.10; 404, Brunswick ten-crown piece, 1609, \$50; 405, five-crown piece, 1609, \$24; 406, ten-crown piece, 1620, \$80; 407, three-crown piece, 1624, \$14.75; 409, six-crown piece, 1625, \$38.50; 410, three-crown piece, 1639, \$17; 411, four-crown piece, 1647, \$27. The set of Bell Thalers, of 1643, 9 pieces, fetched \$36. 424, the triple crown of 1648, brought \$11; another, 1664, \$10; another, 1665, \$15; and the mortuary quadruple crown of Augustus, 1666, \$25. No. 448, a collection of 560 pieces of Chinese coins and temple medals from the earliest period to the present day, well mounted in trays, with a detailed catalogue in Chinese and English, were a bargain to somebody at \$47.50. This number of the catalogue was really a collection in itself, and one not likely to reappear in any future sale.

* * *

Among the ancient coins of Greece and Rome, the beautiful and rare decadrachm of Syracuse, from the Woodward-Klein sale, No. 502 of the present catalogue, brought \$97.50. This was \$7.50 less than Mr. Saltmarsh paid for it, and \$152.50 less than it cost Mr. George M. Klein. No. 505, a very good and rare tetradrachm, brought \$6; 532, a shekel of Israel, year III, \$19.25; and 533, a half shekel of the same year, \$11. No. 763, Scotch crown, 1566, brought \$6.75; 781, douzain, Louis XIV, 1670, Franco-American coinage, \$8; 785, the Martha Washington Half Disme, 1792, \$15.50; 798, dime, 1805, \$9.25. Among the antiquities and curiosities were some decided bargains. To be specially noted were the memorial group in white terra cotta, to Osiris, No. 646, at \$15; 649, a bronze statuette of Osiris as a mummy, \$25; 652, funeral statuette of the same, in enameled clay, \$5.75; 653, sealed clay jar, of the eighteenth dynasty, \$3; 654, profile of Tani, in green glaze clay, \$2.50; 656, figure of Bess, in the same, \$2; 658, searabeus of hard stone, \$3; and two leaden tablets from the tombs of the kings of Tyre, \$2.50 each. A bronze bow fibula, Roman, brought \$3, and a monster

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The sale of pictures left by the late Benjamin Rutherford Fitz, at the Fifth Avenue Art Galleries, 366 Fifth Avenue, produced a total amount of \$6,998, for 190 pictures. This has been commented on by certain daily papers as an unsatisfactory return; but in view of the fact that many of the works were mere sketches and studies, never intended by the artist to be sold at all, I cannot view it in that light. Moreover, the sale coming at the end of a season crowded with picture auctions, and falling in bad weather, might have been much worse.

* * *

In April 1891 the Brooklyn Naval Lyceum curios, portraits and library were sent to the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. The collection belonged exclusively to the Naval Lyceum Association which was organized in the early '30s, and was composed of officers of the navy. For more than fifty years the Naval Lyceum was in the upper part of the building that is occupied by the Commandant and his staff on Main street, in the Brooklyn Navy Yard. It was one of the most attractive features of this naval station, and contained valuable portraits of the heroes of our navy. Among the portraits was an original one of Paul Jones, presented by his niece, Miss Jeanette Taylor. From all parts of the world, curiosities which had been collected for many years by the navy were gathered there. Rare manuscripts, official records of the early navy and 3,000 volumes were among the attractions of the Lyceum. But the young officers of the navy failed to enroll themselves as members of the society, and as the institution was going to decay, a meeting of the society was held in 1889, when it was decided to send the property of the Lyceum to the Naval Academy, which was done.

An interesting illustrated prospectus of the St. Louis School of Fine Arts has been issued. It may be secured by application to Mr. George M. Bartlett, secretary, 1704 Washington avenue, St. Louis, Mo.

* * *

One of the famous collections of Europe, that of Count Daupias, of Lisbon, is to be sold at the Georges Petit Gallery in Paris, on May 16 and 17. Pictures from the Daupias collection are not unknown in the collections of this country, and are invariably of high quality. The present catalogue, which is copiously illustrated, lists a collection of sixty-seven old and one hundred and forty-four modern paintings, the majority of the former by Boucher, Drouais, Fragonard, Greuze, Largilliere, Nattier, Prud'hon, and Watteau. Charles Chaplin, so recently deceased, was unique among the Frenchmen of his time in reviving the fragile, artificial and delicately voluptuous art of Boucher and Fragonard and reviving it with something of its original charm, and it is significant that two examples of his work are in this collection. It was the especial pride of Count Daupias that he was eclectic in his tastes; that he had no fads, but bought only when the picture answered to his ideas of artistic beauty; and thus, side by side with the eighteenth century painters of attested fame, he placed modern men of the most diverse styles, but who have in common the faculty of pleasing, Baudry and Corot, Boldini and Jacquet, Chaplin and Bastien-Lepage. Judging from the superb plates with which the catalogue is illustrated, he had an almost unflinching appreciation of the best that is purely beautiful in art. Catalogues may be had at Knoedler & Co.'s, who will execute orders for the sale.

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